

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 /035 W

----- 010399

P 261826Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4941

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 6483

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PINT, SHUM, PFOR

SUBJECT: ARREST OF COMMITTEE FOR PEACE EMPLOYEE; COMMITTEE RELATIONS
WITH GOC

REFS: A) STATE 212646 B) SANTIAGO 6342

1. SUMMARY: GOC SECURITY FORCES MAY HAVE SOLID
GROUNDS FOR ARRESTING PEACE COMMITTEE EMPLOYEE. COMMITTEE
IS ABLE TO OPERATE FREELY (CONSIDERING GENBZAL RESTRAINTS
NOW PRESENT IN CHILE), AND EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE
GOC IS TRYING TO CIRCUMSCRIBE ITS WORK. END SUMMARY.

2. RELIABLE COMMITTEE FOR PEACE SENIOR STAFF MEMBER
SEPTEMBER 25 TOLD EMBOFF THAT COMMITTEE EMPLOYEE
GEORGINA OCARANZA MUNOZ, A LUTHERAN, REMAINS IN DETEN-
TION, PRESUMABLY AT QUATRO ALAMOS (INTERROGATION CENTER
OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DIRECTORATE - DUNA). SOURCE
HAD SPOKEN TO FONMIN UNDER SEC VALDES CONCERNING DETEN-
TION AND REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN ASSURED THAT OCARANZA WOULD
BE MOVED TO PIRQUE DETENTION CENTER FOR WOMEN NEAR
SANTIAGO. SHE HAD NOT BEEN MOVED AS OF SEPTEMBER 25.
SOURCE INDICATED HE HAD INFORMATION THAT OCARANZA WAS
NOT BEUNG MISTREATED BEYOND VERBAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL
PRESSURE THAT ARE PART OF INTERROGATION ROUTINE; SHE
HAD, HOWEVER, SIGNED A DOCUMENT CONCERNING THE
COMMITTEE, EITHER WILLINGLY OR UNDER DURESS. CONTENTS
OF DOCUMENT WERE NOT KNOWN.

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3. SOURCE BELIEVES THAT OCARANZA IS PROBABLY A MEMBER OR SYMPATHIZER OF EXTREMIST MOVEMENT OF THE REVOLUTIONARY LEFT (MIR), A FACT COMMITTEE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF. SHE WAS ARRESTED WITH SEVEN OTHER PERSONS, PROBABLY DURING MIR MEETING. SOURCE AND COMMITTEE ARE EMBARRASSED BY HER PROBABLY MIR CONNECTION BUT BELIEVE THEY MUST INQUIRE AS TO HER CURRENT STATUS FOR HUMANITARIAN REASONS.

4. SOURCE SAID COMMITTEE OPERATES FREELY WITHOUT DIRECT INTERFERENCE OR HARASSMENT FROM GOC. IN FACT, HE IS AMAZED AT LACK OF GOC INTERFERENCE, ALTHOUGH HE HAS NO DOUBT THAT GOC FOLLOWS COMMITTEE'S WORK CLOSELY. DAID THERE HAVE BEEN PERIODS OF MINOR HARASSMENT, LAST ONE DURING MAY-JULY THIS YEAR, WHEN GOC OFFICIALS CONSTANTLY VISITED COMMITTEE-RUN SOUP KITCHENS FOR POORER, ASKING VARIETY OF QUESTIONS. VISITS HAVE NOW STOPPED.

5. CONTRARY TO EMBASSY'S IMPRESSION (REF B), OCARANZA DETENTION IS THE THIRD ARREST OF COMMITTEE EMPLOYEE. OTHER TWO TOOK PLACE GOOD TIME AGO. IN ONE, EMPLOYEE HAD MIR CONNECTIONS, WAS DETAINED, RELEASED, AND IS NOW IN EUROPE; OTHER PERSON WAS CLEAN AND STILL WORKS WITH COMMITTEE. THUS GOC HAS NOT USED DETENTION AS MEANS OF PRESSURING COMMITTEE.

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THAT GOC HAS MADE SYSTEMATIC ATTEMPT TO INTERFERE WITH OR CIRCUMSCRIBE THE COMMITTEE'S WORK. WE ASSUME, AS DOES SOURCE(3 THAT GOC CLOSELY MONITORS COMMITTEE ACTIVITY, AND THAT COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES ARE NOT WELCOME BY CURRENT STANDARDS IN CHILE, GOC HAS BEEN VERY RESTRAINED IN ATTITUDE TOWARD COMMITTEE. GOVERNMENT OBVIOUSLY UNDERSTANDS THAT CATHOLIC AND OTHER CHURCHES STAND BEHIND THE COMMITTEE, AND THAT IT HAS CONSIDERABLE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

7. OUR COMMITTEE SOURCE GAVE INFORMATION IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE, NOTING THAT COMMITTEE'S CONTACTS WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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FOREIGNERS ARE ONE AREA WHERE GOC'S SKIN IS THIN, AND ABUSE OF HIS CONFIDENCE COULD BRING ABOUT GOC ACTION. POPPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL, ARRESTS, PRISONERS WELFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SANTIA06483
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750335-0742
From: SANTIAGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750913/aaaaalix.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 212646, 75 SANTIAGO 6342
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARREST OF COMMITTEE FOR PEACE EMPLOYEE; COMMITTEE RELATIONS WITH GOC
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, PFOR, CI, COMMITTEE FOR PEACE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006